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a dollar to pay for materials, supplies, etc., instead of the \$1,000,000 actually paid out; if there had not been a dollar to pay for loss and damage, injuries to persons, insurance, hire of equipment and joint facility rents, instead of the hundreds of millions actually paid out—if there had not been a dollar to pay for a single, solitary thing but wages and taxes, those two items alone still would have stood in round numbers at four billions of dollars—to be exact: wages, \$3,698,216,351; taxes, \$2,783,868; wages and taxes together, \$3,377,085,019.

That four billions gone in one gulp of wages and taxes was as much as the whole transportation bill paid by the American public as late as 1917. That four billions of wages and taxes in 1920 was a full billion of dollars more than the annual average of the whole transportation bill of the American public for the three years before the war.

The railroad wage bill alone at \$3,698,216,351 in 1920 was above three-quarters of a billion of dollars more than the whole transportation bill of the American public in the twelve months following the outbreak of the European war, when the total operating revenues for the year ending July 20, 1915, were \$2,871,563,047.

Since last July there has been a 12 per cent. reduction of wages, which has not made a dent in the grossly swollen operating costs of the railroads. If the roads as a whole, therefore, were never to pay a cent of dividends, if they were to go bankrupt and not pay interest on their debts, how would it be possible for them to get back to normal or near normal freight and passenger rates in the face of such staggering operating expenses to pay?

**Tammany Retreats.**

Tammany tried to destroy the scientifically prepared city budget by eliminating from it specific appropriations and substituting for them lump sum appropriations. In its arrogance Tammany believed that the people of New York city did not care how the budget was made up or whether the expenditure of the taxpayers' money was reasonably protected against politicians and their creatures.

But when the taxpayers learned that Tammany had destroyed the intelligently worked out budget system it inherited from the Mitchell administration they acted with a force that shook even Tammany's self-confidence. Tammany ran to cover, dropping the lump sum appropriations as it ran and restoring the itemized accounts from which it wants to be free.

The New York Herald is glad to have had a part in teaching Tammany that New York is not neglectful of the safeguards erected to protect the taxpayers from exploitation by Tammany. It was late in the budget making period when this assault on good government was disclosed, but it was not too late to repulse the assaults, as Tammany hoped would be the case.

**Gloucester's Challenger.**

That Gloucester fishermen are ready to challenge for the Fishermen's International Trophy, won by the Canadian Bluenose last week, is shown by the fact that on October 27 three skippers of the old Massachusetts fishing town announced their intention to build a schooner to race for the trophy in 1922.

The three men who have subscribed money to build a challenger are Captain JEFFERY THOMAS, Captain BENJAMIN FINE and Captain ROBERT WHARTON. They plan to have a schooner 137 feet over all and 105 feet on the water line, a boat just about midway in size between Bluenose and Elsie of the 1921 contest.

She is to be called Puritan and is to be sailed by Captain THOMAS, who hopes to have the new boat fishing commercially for halibut by March. This would prevent any question, such as arose this year with the Mayflower, as to the eligibility of the American challenger.

The last famous Puritan was the America's Cup defender of 1885, which brought EDWARD BURGESS into worldwide fame. She handily defeated Genesta. Such a combination ought to bring Captain JEFFERY THOMAS and his companions the best of good luck.

**Divine Sarah Buys an Isle.**

Mme. SARAH BERNHART, according to a cable message from Paris, has bought from the French Government a small island near Belle Isle on the coast of Brittany, where she will prepare her tomb and erect over it a chapel and a repository for mementos of her stage career. She has for years made her summer home on Belle Isle, to which she went annually when the Parisian theatrical season ended and the fog had lifted from this sombre bit of French coast. She converted an old fort, high on the cliffs, into a villa, and from her windows she had a view which, she declared, always fascinated her and which appealed to and soothed her ever varying moods.

This is a region of romance and mystery. It was at Quiberon, on the top of a little peninsula jutting out from the mainland, that the unfortunate royalist expedition in the French Revolution attempted to land under the protection of the British fleet. Of the 6,000 émigrés fewer than a third escaped after the defeat of the expedition by Hoche, the leader of the republican forces. Further back in the mainland is the famous old pilgrim church of St. Anne, the

scene of the greatest of the Breton pardons.

Nearer in the foreground is the little town of the Auray, where the bones of the émigrés who died at Quiberon were piously collected and buried beneath a chapelle expiatoire where the Bourbons returned to the throne of France. On the mainland coast and in clear view from Belle Isle lies the great Carnac field of megalithic remains, monuments of a prehistoric race, the mysteries of which scientists have vainly sought for centuries to solve.

With all of its somberness, its tragedies, its gray traditions and legends, this was always a land which the Divine SARAH loved and which strongly appealed to her. But the world joins with France in hoping that she may live many years yet in its full enjoyment.

**American Valuation Duties.**

Importers, merchants and others opposed to the American valuation plan are quite right to protest against Representative FOWSER's impeachment of their purpose and his characterization of their attitude as un-American. His strictures are irrelevant to the question of the economic principles involved and are altogether uncalled for.

It is no more un-American to deal in foreign goods that are desired and required by American consumers than it is to deal in domestic goods that are desired and required by American consumers. Imports properly regulated can be and are stimulative of our home productivity, because foreign buying of our goods cannot go on unless there is American buying of foreign goods to enable the foreign buyers of our goods to pay for them in whole or in part with their goods.

On the other hand, the principles of the American valuation plan are either misapprehended or misrepresented by some of its opponents. What the plan mainly proposes, for example, is a plain extension of a tariff duty method already in practice here and pretty much everywhere in the world.

There are now, of course, specific duties as well as ad valorem duties. A suit of underwear imported from England under the present ad valorem system of a percentage on the appraisement of the article in the country where it is produced may compel the English goods to pay twice as much duty in dollars and cents as a similar suit of underwear imported from Germany pays on the appraisement of the German article in its country. But a specific duty of 50 cents a pair on a pair of gloves of a given standard makes every imported pair of such gloves pay exactly the same duty, whether it comes into this country from England, Germany, Japan or Timbuctoo.

Similarly the American valuation plan would make like articles imported into this country and subject to a percentage duty pay exactly the same amount, no matter from what country they came and no matter what they were worth there.

There would be, however, this difference of operation, namely—the specific duty pure and simple is rigid as to equality of duty paid by everybody and also rigid as to its money amount of the tax, whether it is too much or too little, measured against our domestic cost, value or price. The American valuation plan, on the contrary, while rigid as to equality of duty paid by everybody like the specific duty, also would be flexible as to the money amount of the tax. This money amount would go up if the domestic article went up here at home; it would go down if the domestic article went down here at home.

One of the arguments offered against the plan relates to this very flexibility. It is objected that an importer buying an article in Germany, say, could have no idea of what duty he would have to pay to two or three months later upon the arrival of the article. But, say the framers of the American valuation plan, what of that? Suppose in the three months intervening between the purchase of the goods in Germany and their arrival here the American valuation did go up, causing the duty actually paid by the importer to be more than the importer had expected it would be; nevertheless the same thing would apply to every other like article coming in at the same time. The absolute equality of duty paid would be at no disadvantage as compared with any other importer whose goods came in at the same time, no matter when any such other importer had bought his goods abroad.

The protesting importer replies that if he sold his goods to an American merchant at a fixed price ninety days before delivery, expecting to pay a given amount of duty, he would suffer a loss if he were compelled, upon arrival of the goods, to pay a larger amount of duty. The advocates of the American plan reply that guarding against such a loss is a mere detail of business routine. The goods could be sold by the importer to the merchant at a set price plus the duty upon arrival. The merchant would be safeguarded because the amount of duty could go up only if the American valuation went up, leaving the relative position of all goods, American, English, German, Japanese, or whatever they might be, the same as before.

In any event, the principle and the practice upon which the Fordney framers of the measure are determined and upon which the House of Representatives majority seems

agreed is that exports from pauper labor or debased exchange countries shall pay us the same duty in dollars and cents on a given article landed here at a given time as exports from dear labor and high exchange countries pay us. Mr. FOWSER's example follows:

"To-day on a \$1,000 worth of goods [here] on Canada the duty is double in amount what would be collected on the same goods in quantity and quality from the Orient. The American valuation plan when put into effect will compel Japan to pay exactly the same amount of duty on the same quantity of goods that Canada pays regardless of their cost of production."

The American people, after a reasonable protection of their own industries, are not going to object to this square deal treatment of Canada which has become in normal conditions our second best customer in the whole world. They are not going to object to this square deal treatment of Great Britain, our first customer in the whole world. Either there will have to be a general substitution of the rigid specific duties of the present system for the ad valorem duties or there will have to be the more flexible American valuation system.

**The District Attorney's Office.**

In a statement issued last Friday JOSE H. BANTON, Acting District Attorney and Tammany candidate for District Attorney, says: "The staff of my office has been reorganized and a spirit of cooperation and fairness established." If this is not a repudiation of the administration of the district attorney by Mr. BANTON of the superior, Mr. SWANN, and a confession of the depths to which the District Attorney's office fell under Tammany rule, then it is hard to say what it is.

No matter what Mr. BANTON may say or think about reorganizing the District Attorney's office, everybody who knows Tammany Hall knows that the office will never have a real housecleaning under a Tammany District Attorney; and that is what Mr. SWANN was and what Mr. BANTON is trying to be.

There is only one way to restore public confidence in the District Attorney's office, and that is to elect JOHN KIRKLAND CLARK District Attorney at next week's election.

Mr. CLARK's record is too well known to require any further testimony to his fitness for the big job in the Criminal Courts Building. And Mr. CLARK, realizing that the voters wish to know not only what kind of man they are asked to vote for but what he intends to do if elected, has made a very definite programme for the rehabilitation of the District Attorney's office. Mr. CLARK's pledges may be epitomized as follows:

To run the District Attorney's office as a real criminal law office—the largest one in the world.

To seek indictments only as a preliminary to convictions; prosecution without persecution; no "indicting and forgetting."

To give speedy trial to the accused and to clear the trial calendar.

To cooperate in the assignment of counsel to needy defendants.

To prosecute aggressively reckless automobile drivers.

To reduce juvenile delinquency.

To proceed against profiteers in rents, food and other necessities.

To develop the police branch of the office so that there will be no more scandals like the Elwell case.

To work for the prevention of crime as well as for the prosecution of the criminal.

This constructive programme, which tells at once what the criminal law office of New York county should have but has not had, ought to appeal to every citizen, regardless of his political affiliations.

Electing JOHN KIRKLAND CLARK means putting life in the District Attorney's office.

A visitor to Russia observes that under Bolshevism there is an "absolute lack of able people." This is not surprising when it is remembered that Bolshevism began by shooting the able people who refused to adopt its political beliefs.

There being no reason to fear a railroad strike to-morrow, all persons are free to spend to-day dreading what tricks Hallowe'en visitors will play on them to-night.

The people of North Dakota who went off on a political spree five years ago appear to be recovering from their frenzy. Unfortunately for them they cannot recover from its effects in a moment, but while they are regaining their health they may take comfort from the thought that their experience will be useful as a warning to their neighbors.

The visiting Japanese sailor Prince who plays baseball in his own, his native land, confided to reporters, "I bet on the Yankees, I lose." He proves his sporting turn of mind to this region by his choice of tenness; no American sport ever lost or won or did anything else in the past tense.

**Appeal.**

I should forgive you if you came. My anger turned to tears, I should forgive you if you came. Across the waiting years.

My heart is but a simple heart—It could not hold the two, A flaming anger and the joy Of once more seeing you.

The Preference Amendment.

Its Effect Would Be to Create a Privileged Class of Citizens.

TO THE NEW YORK HERALD: From the 20th day of April, 1777, the Constitution of the State of New York, borrowing the spirit if not the letter of Magna Charta, has declared the American doctrine that "no member of this State shall be disfranchised or deprived of any of the rights or privileges secured to any citizen thereof, unless by the law of the land, or the judgment of his peers," and this language has been construed by our highest courts to mean that "no person shall be deprived, by any form of legislation or governmental action, of either life, liberty or property, except as the consequence of some judicial proceeding, appropriately and legally conducted." (Wynhammer vs. The People, 13 N. Y. 378, 434.)

A rule of law which has stood from the 15th day of June, 1215, to the present time may be assumed to have justified its existence and to be entitled to some degree of respect as a guide for legislators and the people in the exercise of the highest manifestation of legislative powers. If it embodies a correct principle of law; if there is an inalienable right on the part of every man and woman born into the world, to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, what justification can there be for the proposed amendment to the Constitution of this State under the provisions of which honorably discharged "soldiers, sailors and marines who shall have served as such in the army, navy or marine corps of the United States in time of war" shall be entitled to preference in appointment and promotion, without regard to their standing on any list from which such appointment or promotion may be made?

When we prefer one class of citizens for appointment in the civil service of the State over every other citizen, we are disfranchising to that extent the persons of the other classes; we are closing the door of opportunity to all the brothers and sisters of soldiers, sailors and marines who have served the United States in time of war; we are saying to the babe yet unborn that he or she must come into being in the State of New York shorn of that equal opportunity which has been the boasted distinction of American citizenship in all its history.

I wonder if the women who answered the summons of the Government of the United States are willing to occupy this attitude toward their brothers and sisters; toward their own children yet unborn.

And I wonder, too, why the discrimination against the equally brave women who entered the service in hospital, ambulance and other lines of work? If there is to be a privileged class, "with corresponding detriment to the general public," to quote the language of the United States Supreme Court in Duplex Company vs. Deering (254 U. S. 443, 471), why not make it coextensive with the class?

Clearly there is no reason why the man who served his Government in time of war should have a privilege which is denied to women who served in the same war. If great principles of government are to be sacrificed to the emotions of the hour, let us at least be just to those who have deserved this surrender of principles in their behalf; let the women who have served be equally preferred with the men.

Of what use is it to give the ballot to women if we disfranchise them in respect to those public employments for which they are best suited; if we deny to them the rights and privileges which are extended to men who have performed no higher service?

Because it sets at naught a fundamental principle of Americanism; because it is unjust to the women of the State; because it is fatal to the principles of civil service reform, this amendment should be defeated. No soldier, sailor or marine in his self-respecting consciousness will thank any one for voting for so vicious an amendment of the fundamental law; these men are not said to face the future on equal terms with the women who watched over them in the hospitals and the camps of the great war. BENJAMIN S. DEAN. JAMESTOWN, October 29.

**Vote for Eilert.**

**Candidate for Borough President a Friend of the Schools.**

TO THE NEW YORK HERALD: As a father who has children in the public schools and who knows what it means when children are on part time I wish you would allow me space enough to speak a good word for Ernest P. Eilert, coalition candidate for the office of Borough President.

Mr. Eilert is a graduate of Public School No. 13, has children of his own, was on a local school board for ten years and on the Board of Education for six years. Ever since he moved to Washington Heights he has been giving to the education of all public schools on the Heights, twice a year, gold medals for their excellence in scholarship and conduct.

I am going to cast my vote for Mr. Eilert because I believe a vote for him is a vote for my children. I think there are thousands of parents who feel just as I do. JAMES J. BAKER. NEW YORK, October 29.

**On Starting the Furnace.**

TO THE NEW YORK HERALD: With a sense of relief suggestive of emergence from the subway's inky tunnel into the sunlight of green fields I turned from politics, holdups, strikes and the rest of it to your delightful bit of humor "On Starting the Furnace."

It is a classic and should be preserved from the oblivion which waits upon anonymous newspaper gossamer. L. H. STARKER. NEW YORK, October 29.

**A Republic's Gratitude.**

TO THE NEW YORK HERALD: After reading your reporter's admirably written and vivid description of our greeting to the "little gray schoolmaster" yesterday I laid down the paper with the refreshing thought, "Well, republics are not always ungrateful, after all." GEORGE GLADEN. NEW YORK, October 29.

**Woman, Bitten by Bear, Falls Into Well.**

Newspaper correspondent Rochester Post-Express.

Mrs. A. Covey, who was just recovering from an injury received at Potomac Park, where she was badly bitten by a bear, fell into a well near her home Friday, dislocating her shoulder and is suffering from many other bruises.

She will be confined to the house for some time.

Dr. and Mrs. A. Hamilton Rice in Paris